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Focus on the Family Endorses "Religious Freedom Amendment"

Colorado Springs--Today Dr. James C. Dobson, president of Focus on the Family, joined many other national pro-family and religious liberty organizations to endorse the Religious Freedom Amendment, sponsored by Rep. Ernest Istook (R-Okla.). His statement was released this morning at a Capitol Hill news conference:

"Focus on the Family strongly supports the Religious Freedom Amendment to secure the protection of religious freedom for all Americans. We believe in a vision for a just society that protects religious liberties for people of all faiths. This constitutional amendment will make that vision a reality and is long overdue.

"We at Focus on the Family receive 250,000 letters and phone calls each month. We hear all too often from citizens--especially children--who have had their First Amendment religious freedoms trampled upon. The Religious Freedom Amendment will reinforce Americans' First Amendment guarantee of religious liberty and will specifically protect voluntary, student-initiated prayer in public schools.

"Whether its expelling expressions of Christmas from public schools or public parks, outlawing benedictions or censoring student speeches at high school graduations, or punishing a fourth grade boy for praying over his lunch in a public school cafeteria, liberal court judges and misguided school administrators have perverted Thomas Jefferson's meaning of the 'wall of separation between church and state.'

"The U.S. Supreme Court's 1962 prohibition of school prayer unfortunately set in motion an intense effort by the judiciary to eliminate all evidences of religious expression for public life. What we have seen over the last thirty years from the courts is not religious neutrality, but rather what Justice Potter Stewart called a 'religion of secularism.' It is time for the Congress to remedy this abuse of the people's constitutional liberties by passing the Religious Freedom Amendment.

"We urge the American people to call and write their congressmen and senators to assure this amendment's passage."

Founded in 1977 by James C. Dobson, Ph.D., Focus on the Family is a nonprofit Christian organization dedicated to the preservation of the home. Focus on the Family has a monthly mailing list of over 2 million and a daily radio broadcast heard by 3-5 million each week in the United States.